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Pentagon News

Annual Conference - Report

Our Annual Conference / Employability Showcase took place on September 12th at the Centre for Life. The focus was on employability and how the VCS can contribute to that agenda.

Our conference report summarises the information given on the day, as well as group discussions and potential ways ahead.

Download a copy of the report [here](#).

Election to the Tyne and Wear City Region Employment Consortium

Following the conference, Roger Mould (Newcastle CVS) has been nominated as the VCS representative on the new Tyne and Wear City Region Employment Consortium, with James Herbert (Mental Health Matters) as the nominated deputy.

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Upcoming events:

Even More for Your Money – The Way Ahead

Do you want to give yourself the edge? Do you want to...

...demonstrate your organisation's value

...calculate your contribution to your community

...measure the economic value of the work you do

...show how you're delivering on your social objectives?

YES?

THEN WE HAVE FIVE 'IMPACT MEASUREMENT TOOLS' FOR YOUR ORGANISATION!

Last year we launched the 'Even More for Your Money' project at a special event at the Mansion House in Newcastle. **Ten organisations** have spent this year working on one of the tools, with support from experienced regeneration consultants.

We are now ready to **showcase our findings** through five themed events in November and December, across Tyne & Wear. Each event will feature a summary of the five tools below followed by a focus on one of them by the relevant specialist. Each will be joined by representatives from the organisations who piloted the model.

Social Appraisal Toolkit (SAT)
Local Multiplier 3 (LM3)
Social Audit Network (SAN)
Social Return on Investment (SROI)
Social Auditing

Which one is right for you?

Each tool encompasses a wide range of **impact measurement techniques**, suitable for organisations of all sizes and needs. From a short toolkit which helps you to assess the social impact of a small organisation, to ongoing management projects which look at all aspects of a well-established organisation, **there's something here for you!** Some of the tools measure social and environmental performance in these terms, while others help put an economic figure on this work: **invaluable information** when bidding for a contract, loan or grant!

For full details of the events, booking information and information on the five models (which will help you choose which event(s) to attend) please visit our website [here](#).

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Christmas Networking with the Pentagon Partnership

Thursday 13 December 2007
The Mansion House
Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 pm - 4.00 pm

Do you want to...

- ...find partners?
- ...enhance your service provision?
- ...expand your geography?
- ...put your name on the map?

...THEN NETWORKING IS THE KEY

Here at Pentagon we are offering you the opportunity to join colleagues from across Tyne and Wear and beyond in our Christmas celebration networking event.

Buffet Lunch

With the chance to mingle with other guests to begin your networking experience

Speed Networking

Each attendee will have 60 seconds to promote your organisation to potential partners from across Tyne and Wear and beyond... What do you do? What are you looking for in a partner? What can you offer a partner? What support would you like to promote your organisation and take it to its next level?

PQQs

(Pre-Qualification Questionnaires)

January 2008 will see the last opportunity to bid for Learning & Skills Council contracts for **3 years** as the deadline for submission of PQQs closes!

Pentagon is offering 20 lucky organisations FREE professional support to complete their PQQs before the deadline.

Applications to be one of the 20 will be taken at the networking event

Christmas Raffle

Donations and Prize offerings gratefully received!

Download a booking form [here](#) and return it to christine.obrien@pentagonpartnership.org.uk ,
or to Christine O'Brien, Pentagon Partnership, c/o VODA, The Shiremoor Centre, Earsdon
Road, Shiremoor, NE27 0HJ.

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Policy and Other News

Pentagon briefing: Government Office for the North East

Based in the centre of Newcastle in Citygate, GO-NE represents eleven central government departments across the entire region. The Tyne and Wear division is headed by Tom Smyth.

Tom's role includes taking forward the negotiation and agreement of five Local Area Agreements within Tyne and Wear, as well as leading the Government Office engagement with local government and partners within that area. He is also responsible for helping to develop a new Multi-Area Agreement across the Tyne and Wear City Region to improve economic development, employability and transport connectivity.

Tom Smyth

Head of Division: Tyne and Wear

(0191) 202 3661

tom.smyth@gone.gsi.gov.uk

Click [here](#) for a list of the Tyne and Wear division's priorities for 2007-2008.

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The Integrated Regional Framework for the North East

There's not long left to respond to the consultation on the Integrated Regional Framework for the North East.

The Integrated Regional Framework for the North East is the overarching framework for economic, social and environmental development in the region

Please visit www.sustaine.com to respond to the consultation directly online, **before the end of November 7th**.

See Pentagon's summary of the consultation [here](#).

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Big Lottery Fund BASIS Consultation

BASIS is a Big Lottery Fund programme which aims to improve the infrastructure support available to VCS organisations. £4.3 million is available for projects in the North East (expected to fund 9-12 projects). The Big Lottery Fund is consulting on how the funding should be targeted.

Please visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/basis_consultation.htm for further information, plus a link to the online survey which forms the consultation. You can also email your thoughts on the consultation to basis.consultation@biglotteryfund.org.uk

The deadline for responses is **12 noon, November 16 2007**.

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NESEP Conference: *Profits & Principles*

28-29th November at Beamish Hall, County Durham as part of One North East's 'Enterprise Week'.

This is an essential two-day conference, which aims to address the current issues and opportunities surrounding social enterprise. This event presents a unique opportunity for organisations to discover how social aims and franchises can create thriving businesses and would prove of interest to the third sector and statutory sector.

Guest speakers include:

- Jonathan Bland – Chief Executive, Social Enterprise Coalition
- Liam Black – Author, 'There's no business like Social Business' and Co-Director of Fifteen with Jamie Oliver
- Kate Welch – Acumen Community Enterprise Development Trust and board member of One North East.

Cost

Social enterprises/voluntary sector	£75 per day or £130 for both days
Other organisations/statutory	£100 per day or £180 for both days
Wine reception & conference dinner	£40 per head

To reserve your place or to request further information contact any of the NESEP team on 0191 427 2150, stacey@profitsandprinciples.co.uk or fax: 0191 427 2155.

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CapacityBuilders: *Improving Reach*

Improving Reach is a three-year, £18 million funding programme aimed at those who provide quality, accessible support to VCS organisations. The focus is on support for groups who work with hard to reach groups such as:

- black and minority ethnic communities
- refugee and migrant communities
- faith communities
- isolated rural communities

The programme is now open for applications; please visit [this page on the CapacityBuilders website](#) for further details.

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We welcome your comments on this bulletin. This will enable us to shape our information services to meet your needs.

Read previous e-bulletins [here](#).

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